

NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1925,

by

R. T. TURNER, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

To which is appended the Report of

Mr. J. STOREY, Sanitary Inspector.

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NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health—R. T. Turner.

Population at Census, 1921—25,015.

Area in Acres—98,458.

Estimated Population at middle of 1925—25,680.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921—(estimated) 5,550.

Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 1921—
(estimated) 5,620.

Assessable Value—£187,902.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£783.

Birth-rate per 1,000 living at all ages—16·9.

Death-rate per 1,000 living at all ages—11·1.

Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 births—71.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The District is situated in the South East of Cheshire, and adjoins in the South the County of Salop and in the East the County of Stafford. It is part of the alluvial plain of Cheshire, its subsoil being largely the Keuper Marl. It surrounds the Borough of Crewe and the Urban District of Nantwich, both of which are situated near its centre. The diameter of the District is about sixteen miles. The soil is of a rich alluvial character and it may, I think, truthfully be said that some of the finest milk-producing soil in the world is situated in this Rural District.

The River Weaver, a tributary of the Mersey, drains the District and receives tributary streams from the neighbouring Counties of Salop and Stafford.

The main industry of the District is Agriculture, and by far the greater portion of its residents are engaged directly or indirectly therein. During the years of the War a considerable acreage of permanent pasture was broken up and put under tillage, but practically the whole of this broken-up land has again been laid down and the rearing of cattle and the production of milk have again resumed their pre-eminence. Such land as is now under the plough is either devoted to

the growth of crops for the maintenance of cattle during the winter months or to the production of early or winter potatoes. During the winter months practically all the milk produced is sold as milk either to the great towns or to the factories situated either in or contiguous to the District. In the summer months a very large proportion of the milk is converted into cheese, either in the farm-houses or in factories, several of which exist in the District.

In that part of the District contiguous to the towns of Crewe and Nantwich there exists a considerable population of a non-agricultural character. This population largely consists of railway workers and of tradespeople and their employees, whose daily occupation is found in Crewe and Nantwich. A considerable number of female residents of these villages are employed in the making of ready-made clothing at factories in Nantwich, Crewe and Willaston. A few coal-miners live in the townships adjoining the Staffordshire border.

Though this District (owing to its being chiefly engaged in the production of milk) has not felt the depression in agriculture to anything like the same extent as have other parts of the country, the abounding prosperity of the War years and their immediate successors has gradually disappeared, and the skilled agricultural labourer, who is perhaps the most valuable workman in the country, does not enjoy the wages and conditions which he deserves and which the best class of farmer would willingly afford him if the economic condition of agriculture would permit.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the vital statistics of the Rural District, the figures being those supplied by the Registrar General:—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1925 (Civilians only).					Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES ...	...	...	...	...	147	140
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	10	10
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	6	7
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	16	12
Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	...	...	...	...	15	8

				Males.	Females.
Heart Disease	...	...	...	21	20
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	5	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	8	11
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	11	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	2	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	2	—
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)...	...	...	...	2	—
Appendicitis...	...	...	...	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	—	2
Accidents and Diseases of Parturition	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital Debility, Malformation, and Premature Birth	...	...	...	6	9
Suicide	...	...	...	1	—
Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	5	3
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	27	39

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—

				Males.	Females.
TOTAL	...	...	...	11	20
Legitimate	...	...	...	11	18
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	2
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	204	230
Legitimate	...	...	...	195	219
Illegitimate	...	...	...	9	11
POPULATION AT MIDDLE OF 1925	...	...	...	25,680	

The birth-rate was 16·9 as compared with a birth-rate of 18·3 for the whole of England and Wales.

The death-rate was 11·1 as compared with a death-rate of 12·2 for the whole of England and Wales.

The deaths under one year of age per 1,000 births registered were 71 as compared with 75 for England and Wales.

The following table making a comparison in the matter of births and mortality between the years 1896 (my first year as Medical Officer of Health for the District), 1920, and 1925 may be of interest:—

		1896.	1920.	1925.
Estimated Population	...	23,382	23,706	25,680
Total Births	...	639	566	434
Birth-rate	...	27·3	23·4	16·9
Total Deaths	...	336	297	287
Death-rate	...	14·3	12·5	11·1
Deaths of Infants per 1,000 Births		122	62	71

An examination of this table shows that with a population greater by 2,200 than in 1896 the births are fewer by 205 and the deaths by 49. In the same period there has been a gratifying drop in infant mortality from 122 to 71 per 1,000 births registered.

To me it is manifest that this great diminution in the number of births is due to voluntary restriction, and I think that those who desire to have methods of birth restriction taught at the expense of public funds may spare themselves the trouble, as the knowledge is clearly in existence and is being put into practice.

Though I should consider it a distinct advantage if the enfeebled stock in our great towns should cease to increase its numbers, I regard it as a great pity that such a very great diminution as this should have taken place in the births of a Rural District, which should be one of the great reservoirs for the recruitment and revivifying of the population of our country by country-bred and country-reared men and women, who are without doubt the most valuable class in the community, and who should be encouraged and assisted to go forth and people the unoccupied spaces of the British Empire, if they are surplus to the requirements of our own Country.

HOSPITALS.

There is a large Poor Law Hospital at Nantwich, which serves the Rural and Urban Districts of Nantwich and the Borough of Crewe.

There is an Isolation Hospital at Worleston. This Hospital is capable of accommodating twenty adults or thirty children, and of treating three diseases at the same time.

There is a Small-pox Hospital at Ravensmoor, with room for six or at most eight patients.

There is a Cottage Hospital at Nantwich with accommodation for ten patients.

In addition to these Institutions there exists at Wrenbury Hall, near Nantwich, an Agricultural and Industrial Colony for the residential treatment of cases of Tuberculosis capable of some work. This Institution was presented to the County Council shortly after the War by the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Association. At present there is accommodation there for something like fifty or sixty cases and its accommodation is only utilised to the extent of fifty or sixty per cent.

OTHER INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION.

Apart from the Poor Law Institution no provision is made for unmarried mothers, or for illegitimate or homeless children.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is an up-to-date Motor Ambulance at the Isolation Hospital for the transport of infectious cases and a Red Cross Motor Ambulance is kept at Nantwich for the transport of non-infectious and accident cases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

No centres of this character exist in the Rural District but the Child-Welfare Centre at Nantwich is used by residents of the area immediately adjoining Nantwich.

SANITARY STAFF.

The Public Health Officials are:—The Medical Officer of Health, a part-time Officer, one half of whose salary is contributed by the Ministry of Health; the Sanitary Inspector, a full-time Officer; and the Surveyor, who is also a full-time Officer.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

The only provision for professional nursing in the homes of the people is by District Nurses, employed by voluntary Associations. Nurses are stationed at Acton, Bunbury, Audlem, Doddington, Cholmondeley, Willaston, Worleston, Burleydam and Stapeley. These Nurses all act as Midwives in their respective Districts.

There are a few registered but untrained Midwives also who practice in the District.

No special provision is made for the nursing of infectious cases in their own homes.

Certain nurses employed by the County Council are located in the Rural District and exercise the functions of school-nurses and health visitors to cases of tuberculosis.

LABORATORY WORK.

Arrangements have existed for many years with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory for the gratuitous examination of bacteriological specimens sent by medical practitioners from cases occurring in the Rural District. These facilities are made full use of by the various doctors of the District.

SUPPLY OF ANTITOXIC, SERUM, etc.

The Rural District Council supply gratuitously through the Medical Officer of Health Diphtheria Antitoxin to medical practitioners for use in necessitous cases of diphtheria. Serum for the treatment of Cerebro-spinal Fever will also be supplied should the occasion arise.

WATER.

Practically three-quarters of the District is supplied with water by means of connections either with the L. M. & S. Railway Company's main or with the Liverpool Corporation's Vyrnwy Aqueduct, both of which pass through the District.

The Townships of Audlem, Buerton, Hankelow, Newhall, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Wrenbury, Sound, Broomhall, Coole Pilate, Austerson and Baddington would, but for the War, have been connected with the Liverpool supply. All these Townships are in great need of a good supply, and it is very much to be regretted that the work was not proceeded with.

The following Townships are also in need of a public supply:—Hatherton, Hunsterson, Doddington, Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Checkley-cum-Wrincill and Walgherton.

The large amount of building which has taken place in the Township of Wistaston is beginning to make its effect felt on the pressure in the water mains supplying that area of the Rural District, and it is probable that the great increase in pressure secured by the new connection made a few years ago with the Railway Company's main will shortly be much reduced as a consequence of the very greatly increased consumption of water consequent on the increase of population located on the mains in question.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The streams entering the District from the Staffordshire border are all polluted more or less by mining and chemical refuse. The River Weaver is polluted by the crude sewage of the Nantwich Urban District.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Public sewers are provided in the Townships of Willaston, Wistaston, Haslington, and part of Audlem.

The Townships of Wybunbury, Bunbury, Shavington, Church Coppenhall and the remaining portion of Audlem need attention as soon as circumstances will permit. In the cases of Shavington and Church Coppenhall the matter is now urgent as a result of new building, which has made conditions very bad indeed.

The outfall works of the Willaston and Wistaston Sewerage Scheme are not adequate for the treatment of the increased volume of sewage now being brought to them from Wistaston and will certainly fail to perform their function unless they are very substantially increased in capacity.

As these works will also have to deal with the sewage of Shavington when this village is sewered, a scheme of extension of the outfall works should be started without delay.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The vast majority of the closets of the District are of the cesspit or of the pail type, the latter being almost universal in the larger villages. These are scavenged by the Council at Shavington, Church Coppenhall, Willaston, Wistaston, Wybunbury, Haslington and Bunbury.

A few water-closets exist at large private residences and in the villages where there are public sewerage works. These are becoming much more numerous as the result of new building.

SCAVENGING.

Public scavenging of ashpits is carried out in the villages mentioned above as having arrangements for the emptying of closets. The work has, on the whole, been carried out with greater efficiency than in former years; but the Sanitary Inspector has still considerable trouble in keeping these places in a satisfactory condition.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Information under this head will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, which is attached hereto. I have personally inspected a large number of premises in connection with outbreaks of disease and complaints of nuisances, or unhealthy conditions.

LODGING HOUSES.

No common lodging houses exist in the District.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Tripe dressing is conducted at Haslington, and there are knackers' yards at Church Coppenhall. These places are, generally speaking, kept in fair condition.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the Public Elementary Schools is generally good. The water supply in those parts of the District which are supplied with water by public water mains is also good; but in the parts which are still dependent on local pumps and wells the supply at some of the Schools is anything but good.

I have many times remarked on the inadequate ventilation of School-rooms, especially in the winter time, when windows are often closed to keep up the temperature of the rooms. The inadequacy of the ventilation is clearly demonstrated by the unpleasant smell which a new-comer from the fresh air notices at once on entering one of these places during teaching hours.

The Schools generally are not nearly so crowded as they used to be. This is due to the diminution in the number of children of school age owing to the smaller birth-rate.

A very few Schools were closed for short periods on account of the prevalence among the children of infectious diseases.

I am very glad to note that the Government Grant will, under the new Regulations, not be affected in future by the diminution in the average attendance at a School by reason of the absence of children suffering from or who have been in contact with cases of Infectious Disease. This will undoubtedly remove the evil of the closing of Schools for the purpose of saving grant.

As regards closure on medical grounds, I am convinced that in a Rural District (such as this at any rate) no other method but closure so readily puts a stop to epidemics among school children. In fact I doubt whether in any District outbreaks of mild Scarlet Fever can be stopped by any other means, the reason being the extreme difficulty of being anything like certain that a child, who has been absent for a few days with "a cold" or "a sore throat," has or has not had Scarlet Fever. I have many times found myself incapable of making a decision and it is hopeless to expect a teacher or health visitor to be able to do so.

There is no doubt that the Day School is the centre from which epidemics are propagated among children in this District, and it is remarkable how quickly as a rule epidemic outbreaks cease once the School is closed even for a brief period.

The routine inspection of School children by the County Council's Medical Inspectors has been productive of much good in the discovery of and the securing treatment for childish defects and diseases, but its effects on epidemics has been nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table shows at a glance the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified, the cases removed to Hospital, and the number of deaths which occurred during the year:—

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Enteric (Paratyphoid) Fever	2	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	129	106	1
Diphtheria ...	9	8	1
Erysipelas ...	5	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1	...
Pneumonia ...	32	...	18
Tuberculosis :			
Respiratory—Male	14	...	6
,, Female	10	...	7
Other Forms—Male	6	...	1
Female	5	...	1

(a) ENTERIC FEVER. Two cases of this group of diseases were notified during the year. They were the cases of two children in a large private house at Bunbury, their ages being 8 and 4 respectively. The first case was notified on November 10th and the second on November 16th.

On receiving the first notification I found that the medical man in charge had had a pathological report on the child and that she gave the reaction for Paratyphoid B. The second child was beginning with an illness, but it was not then certain whether she was suffering from Paratyphoid Fever. A few days later she was found to give the reaction and was notified.

The water supply of the household was from the public mains (Liverpool water supply). I found the drainage system in order.

On making enquiry I found that the milk supply of the household was from their own dairy cattle and that the only persons who drank uncooked milk (except in tea or coffee) were the two children who were ill. I enquired as to who had charge of the dairy vessels and who did the milking.

I found that no suspicion of illness attached to anyone concerned with the exception of the cowman, who did the milking. He had been absent from work for three weeks in September and was said to have had Influenza. When he returned to work in October he was said to have looked very poorly. I thought that he was probably the carrier of the disease to the household and had a specimen of his blood examined, and found it to give the reaction for Paratyphoid B. I then had his urine and fœces tested, when the *Bacillus* of Paratyphoid B was found in his fœces. I advised his employer not to allow him to milk again until he was found no longer to be carrying the bacillus. In January, 1926, he was still a carrier, and has not yet done any milking. I am at present awaiting a further report on his bacteriological condition.

It is perfectly clear that he was the person who brought the disease to the household, and this opinion is further supported by the fact that a child residing in the Malpas Rural District spent a half-day at this man's house in October and had a meal there. He developed the disease shortly before the cases at Bunbury commenced.

(b) SCARLET FEVER. During the year 129 cases of this disease were notified. They were widely scattered over the District. In no case were there any circumstances worthy of special mention and in no case did I find it necessary to close a school on account of the prevalence of the disease.

(c) DIPHTHERIA. Only 9 cases were reported. This is the lowest number of notifications of this disease for many years. Such cases as occurred were very mild and in no case was there any tendency to epidemic prevalence.

(d) ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA. Cases of this disease were reported from Ridley and Stapeley. I could find no source of infection.

(e) OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. Four cases of this disease were reported from the Townships of Audlem and Buerton. They were all mild cases and no permanent damage to vision resulted.

The following is a tabular statement of the cases of this disease as required by the Ministry of Health:—

Cases			Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated at Home.	Treated in Hospital.				
4	4	0	4	0	0	0

(f) TUBERCULOSIS. The following table shows the notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis received during the year and the deaths resulting from the disease:—

AGE.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
1—5	1	..	1	...	...	...	1	...
5—10	..	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	1
20—25	1	2	...	...	..	...	...	..
25—35	2	2	...	2	1	2	...	...
35—45	3	2	...	1	2	1	...	...
45—55	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55—65	4	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upw'ds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	15	9	5	8	5	4	1	1

The notified cases were numerous, and in fact more so than in any year except 1924 since cases of Tuberculosis became compulsorily notifiable. This is to some extent due, I think, to the greater care exercised by medical practitioners in the notification of cases as evidenced by the fact that it is now quite rare for a death to be registered of a person whose case has not been previously notified, whereas such unnotified cases were common a few years ago.

The treatment of cases of Tuberculosis is in the hands of the County Council, and of its results I can only speak as an outside observer. With regard to surgical tuberculosis I think that great good has resulted from the County scheme. As regards Pulmonary Tuberculosis I think that the Dispensaries are doing good, especially in the way of early diagnosis; but I am inclined to doubt whether Sanatorium treatment is doing very much good except in an educative way. Unfortunately, after all too brief a stay in a Sanatorium, the cases return to the very conditions under which they first acquired the disease and seem to relapse. The cases which really benefit are those who can afford radically to change their mode of life on their return. This is impossible as a rule among the working population except in the cases of the lucky military pensioners and the unmarried.

I very much regret that greater use is not made of the very admirable Industrial Colony at Wrenbury Hall.

Hospital treatment of the advanced and dying cases appears to me to be of the highest value in the prevention of the spread of the disease. I wish it were possible that more of the advanced cases could be segregated.

No compulsory prevention of persons suffering from respiratory tuberculosis from milking cows or handling milk was necessary during the year. The colonists at the Wrenbury Hall Colony, who had to some extent been employed as milkers at the Colony, ceased such employment when the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, were issued.

(g) MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH. These diseases, as usual, have occurred from time to time among children attending Elementary Schools. The outbreaks were not such as to merit any special report.

The District has no special facilities for the nursing of such cases in their own homes.

(h) INFLUENZA. The mortality from this disease was considerable, twenty deaths being ascribed to it. Cases are nursed by the voluntarily supported District Nurses; but no scheme organised by the Council is in operation.

(i) PNEUMONIA. Thirty-two cases of Pneumonia were notified. This is a considerable increase as compared with most previous years. I regard the increase as entirely due to the more careful observance by medical men of their duty to notify cases. Even yet I do not think that by any means all the cases are reported.

I am in great doubt as to whether any real good comes from notifying cases of Pneumonia in a District such as this, where the sanitary staff is inadequate to do much in the matter and where the cases become known to the District Nurses in most cases long before they are notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

No exceptional causes of sickness have been in operation during the year under review.

Goitre is prevalent in the South and South-east portion of the District, the part which is still supplied with water from domestic wells. It has largely disappeared from the rest of the District.

The drainage of Shavington, Bunbury, and parts of Audlem, Stapeley, and Wybunbury merits the attention of the Sanitary Authority.

HOUSING.

I. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

(1) The housing shortage prevalent all over the country applies to this Rural District, though probably to a less extent than in more highly industrial areas. This shortage has been slightly improved as the result of the building which has taken place in the Townships adjacent to the Borough of Crewe, but the really rural portions of the District are badly in need of good cottages.

(2) EXTENT OF SHORTAGE.

(a) It has been decided by the Council that, though most of the District could very well do with a considerable amount of cottage building, the most urgent call comes from the following Townships:—Alpraham, Barthomley, Blakenhall, Cholmondeston, Chorley, Dodcott and Wrenbury.

(b) It has been decided to make application to the Ministry of Health for sanction to build houses under the "Wheatley" Act as follows:—

Alpraham	...	...	...	...	4	houses.
Barthomley	...	...	...	...	4	,,
Blakenhall	...	...	...	...	4	,,
Cholmondeston	...	...	...	...	4	,,
Chorley	...	...	...	...	4	,,
Dodcott	...	...	...	...	4	,,
Wrenbury	...	...	...	...	6	,,

(3) As a result of new building of houses in the Townships adjacent to the Borough of Crewe (Haslington, Willaston, Church Coppenhall and Wistaston) a very considerable increase of population in these Townships has taken place. Elsewhere I think that the population is practically stationary.

II. OVERCROWDING.

(1) There is undoubted overcrowding of many of the older cottages provided with only two bedrooms.

(2) Such overcrowding is largely due to the fact that new cottages have not been built at all of recent years in the rural Townships, and that when a member of a family marries it frequently happens that the married couple live with their parents and (although children may not be as numerous as used to be the case) overcrowding is produced.

(3) The only measure which can really cure this condition of affairs is the building of new cottages, and this presents grave economic difficulties. A beginning is to be made shortly by the Council of a scheme of cottage building. This scheme will unfortunately only touch the fringe of the question. A great improvement in old cottages would be made if owners would build an additional bedroom over any existing scullery of each two-bedroomed house.

III. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

(1) (a) The general standard of housing in the District may be estimated from the table of accommodation in existing houses given in the Inspector's Report appended hereto.

(b) The defects found in the two houses which were found unfit were age and general delapidation.

(2) No formal legal action was necessary during the year with regard to unfit houses, but voluntary improvements were made by owners at the instance of the Inspector in a number of cases, as stated in his Report.

IV. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

No specially unhealthy area exists in the District.

V. BYE-LAWS.

The only Bye-Laws relating to houses are the Building Bye-Laws which have been lately revised and submitted to the Ministry.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total—**156**.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923:

(i) By the Local Authority—**Nil**.

(ii) By other bodies or persons—**116**.

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—**103**.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910—**74**.

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—**2**.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—**23**.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—**23**.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—**Nil**.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:—
 - (a) By owners—**23**.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—**Nil**.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close—**Nil**.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—**23**.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—
 - (a) By owners—**23**.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—**Nil**.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders—**Nil.**
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made—**Nil.**
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit—**Nil.**
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—**Nil.**
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—**Nil.**

It is a matter for congratulation that serious building is now taking place in certain parts of the District.

Such new building, however, as has yet taken place has not really touched the difficulty of the housing of the working classes and has brought with it certain difficulties of drainage and water supply which will require action by the Council as time goes on.

I hope that when the suggested scheme of cottage building is completed further schemes will be considered and carried out.

R. T. TURNER, M.D., D.P.H.,

Nantwich,

Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1926.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for 1925.

GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my twenty-third Annual Report.

Substantially the Report is as in former years, thus facilitating comparative examination and reference.

It furnishes particulars of the work done by my department, and indicates the sanitary improvements effected.

The work naturally increases with the development of the District, which obviously necessitates additional clerical and other labour.

I am pleased to be able to report that numerous sanitary improvements have been effected with very little friction, some of them involving considerable outlay.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The District has been systematically inspected. Inspections in accordance with Section 17 of the H.T.P. Act, etc., of 1909, were made in the hamlets and villages of Alraham, Buerton, Crewe, Coppenhall, Haslington, Shavington, Wilkesley, Willaston, Worleston and Wybunbury. Eight hundred and fifty-six re-inspections were made. All defects and improvements were noted and recorded.

NOTICES SERVED.

During the year two Statutory and one hundred and one Informal Notices were served on owners, agents, or occupiers, for the abatement of nuisances. Of these, two Statutory and ninety-eight Informal were complied with; three are in hand.

DRAINAGE.

New drainage systems have been provided at four cottages in the more rural parts of the District.

CONVERSION OF PRIVIES, etc.

Eight privy-cesspits have been converted into pail-closets, two into water-closets; twelve pail-closets have been converted into water-closets; eight new pail-closets and eight new water-closets erected; twenty ashpits abolished, and twenty ashbins substituted.

PAVING OF YARDS.

Three yards have been re-paved with blue bricks at cottages in Hatherton and Wybunbury.

WATER-COURSES AND DITCHES.

The ditches in Broad Lane are very offensive. Portions have been cleaned out. They will continue to be a nuisance until the vicinity is properly sewered. The ditches in Warmingham Road, Coppenhall, are offensive. This part of the District should be sewered. The matter is under consideration with a view to providing efficient drainage.

WORKSHOPS.

These premises were periodically visited, and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

BAKEHOUSES.

The bakehouses were frequently visited, and were found to be kept up to the required standard of cleanliness.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are thirty-eight private slaughter-houses in use in the District. These are objected to chiefly on the ground of inadequate inspection and examination of the animals slaughtered therein, and intended for the food of man. In a Rural District proper supervision of the meat supply cannot be carried out. There is, therefore, every temptation for butchers to dispose of diseased carcasses.

The slaughter-houses were periodically visited for the purpose of detecting any irregularities.

Twelve butchers' and one knacker's licences were renewed, and three licences granted; one refused. Thirty carcasses were examined by request of butchers. Twenty-three general tuberculosis and two dropsical voluntarily surrendered, as being unfit for human food. Five cases of accidents; the affected parts were voluntarily surrendered.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

The number of animals notified since the 7th September to 31st December was eighty-seven. Forty-seven were notified as suffering from tuberculous emaciation; twenty-eight general tuberculosis; and twelve with tuberculous udders. All condemned carcasses were properly disposed of.

NEW MEAT REGULATIONS.

These have been observed as far as possible. My experience is that butchers who sell their meat from their own shops are particular about the quality of the beef, etc., they expose for sale.

The danger from the sale of diseased meat lies with the men who send their dressed carcasses outside your District. With the exception of perhaps a dozen carcasses a week, all meat exported from this area goes to the Manchester and Liverpool Abattoirs, where it is properly inspected.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Licences renewed to store Carbide of Calcium, 5; Petrol, 14. Six new licences granted.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two offensive trades carried on in the District, namely, bone-boiling, and tripe-boiling and dressing. The premises were frequently visited.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases notified to me were promptly visited. Precaution papers, giving instructions for preventing the spread of the diseases, were left at every infected house.

REFUSE REMOVAL.

The refuse and nightsoil are systematically removed from the vicinity of houses and disposed of in such a manner as to avoid nuisance or danger to the public health. In the villages of Audlem, Coppenhall, and Haslington the work is done by public contract. In the Willaston, Wistaston, and Shavington-cum-Gresty villages, part of Broad Lane, Stapeley, and 152 new houses in Gresty Road, the scavenging is done by your own employees under my supervision. There has been difficulty in finding tips for house refuse. In some cases the refuse has to be carted for two miles. Tenants still continue to deposit garden refuse and paper in the ashpits and ashbins, which farmers naturally refuse to have dumped on their land. This practice increases the difficulties experienced, and increases the work of removal. Part of the village of Wybunbury would be decidedly improved by similar treatment. The number of ashbins, ashpits, and pail-closets scavenged at the end of the year under review is as follows:—

Audlem	...	...	...	pans (weekly)	220
Coppenhall	...	...	...	pans (weekly)	113
"	...	...	...	ashpits (quarterly)	109
"	...	...	...	ashbins (fortnightly)	11
Haslington	...	...	...	pans (weekly)	371
"	...	...	...	ashpits (quarterly)	321
"	...	...	...	ashbins (fortnightly)	108
Shavington-cum-Gresty	...		...	pans (weekly)	284
"	"		...	ashpits (quarterly)	270
"	"		...	ashbins (fortnightly)	239
Stapeley (Broad Lane)	...		...	ashpits (quarterly)	67
"	"		...	pans (weekly)	75
Willaston	...	...	...	pans (weekly)	498
"	...	...	...	ashpits (quarterly)	293
"	...	...	...	ashbins (fortnightly)	273
"	-	...	...	privy middens	10
"	...	...	...	cesspits	5
Wistaston	...	...	...	pans (weekly)	74
"	...	...	...	ashpits (quarterly)	29
"	...	...	...	ashbins (fortnightly)	141

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The number of cow-keepers and milk-sellers on the Register at the end of 1924 was 633. The number at present is 641, an increase of 8.

New Shippons built	...	...	...	8
„ Boosies	...	...	...	101
„ Shippon Floors	...	...	...	9
„ „ Channels	...	...	...	9
Stalls re-arranged in Shippons	...	...	...	2
New Windows fixed	...	...	...	41
„ Drains...	...	...	...	9
„ Dairy	...	...	...	1
„ Milk-house	...	...	...	1
„ Cheese-room	...	...	...	1
„ Cleaning Shed	..	...	...	1

Visits paid to cowsheds, etc., 1,282.

The preceding table shows that improvements continue to be made in the sheds. The following paragraphs I allow to remain in the Report for the benefit of dairy farmers, with a hope that the information will be passed on to others.

DAIRY. This should be constructed with no sleeping apartment above it, and have no direct communication with the scullery, etc. It should be well ventilated and adequately lighted. The floor should be laid with impervious material. It should have no internal communication with drains, be free from damp, and at a proper distance from any source of contamination.

COWSHED. This ought to be built in such a manner that cows can be healthily housed in it. Only healthy cows can produce wholesome milk. They require fresh, warm air, cleanliness, pure water, good food, and clean bedding to prevent soiling of udder, etc.

The cowshed should be well lighted, ventilated, and have sufficient cubic space (600 cubic feet per cow has been suggested for rural cowsheds); it should be kept clean by the regular removal of filth and periodic limewashing of the walls.

The influence of warmth in the flow of milk is so great that in the absence of any source of heat, except from the bodies of the cattle, the temperature is generally maintained by preventing the access of fresh air. This undoubtedly has a deleterious effect on the health of the cattle, and promotes disease of the lungs.

The cowkeeper who imagines that a better and greater yield of milk is given in an ill-lighted, ill-ventilated, and overcrowded shippon, with a temperature kept high by animal heat, imagines a vain thing. Cows give a free flow of good milk, and their health is much better maintained in a ship-

pon which is properly lighted, efficiently ventilated, free from draughts, and with adequate cubic space.* The hopper type of window is an excellent ventilator.

PRODUCTION OF CLEAN MILK.

During the year a series of Lectures, illustrated by lantern slides, have been given in various parts of the country on the "Production of Clean Milk," showing the striking difference between dirty and clean methods of milking, emphasised by bacterial counts of milk.

In some cases the animals were milked by ordinary farm labourers, without the cows being groomed or the utensils steamed. In others, milking was carried on by students under the direction of a trained man; firstly, without grooming cows or steaming pails; secondly, cows groomed but pails not steamed; thirdly, cows groomed and pails steamed; and fourthly, using small top pail in conjunction with conditions as in previous test. In the case of experiments three and four, the milk samples showed a great deal less bacterial content than is allowed for certified milk.

By means of small topped pails, brushes, and cloths for washing of udders, etc., the Oxford County farmers demonstrated that in the Kelton dairy farms, without making improvements, certified milk can be produced.

The Lecturer in one case showed, by an interesting set of slides and by the using of a cheese cloth as a strainer, how very considerable numbers of bacteria, together with dirt, may pass through the meshes. He emphasised the necessity for keeping dirt out of milk rather than trying to strain it out after it has gained access. He also showed a series of photographs of bacterial plates, giving examples of contamination. These included contamination caused by hair, straw, chaff, house-fly, blow-fly, finger-tips, the result of a sneeze, and a dirty bottle cap.

In these days of "Clean Milk" propaganda it behoves every milk producer to see that his milk is produced under clean conditions if he wishes to get a satisfactory price for his product.

HOUSING.

Seventy-four houses were inspected under Section 17, Act of 1909.

The houses inspected by me up to the end of 1925 contain the following number of rooms:—

No. of Houses.	Ground Floor.	First Floor.	Attics.	
50	1 and Pantry, etc.	1	...	...
940	ditto.	2	...	...
123	ditto.	3	...	...
4	ditto.	4	...	...
731	2 and Pantry, Scullery, etc.	2	...	...
153	2 and Pantry (no Scullery)	2	...	...
1126	2 and Pantry and Scullery	3	...	...
34	ditto.	4	...	...
8	ditto.	5	...	...
4	3 and Pantry and Scullery	—	...	} Bungalows
6	4 and Pantry and Scullery	—	...	
1	5 and Pantry and Scullery	—	...	
1	3 and Pantry and Scullery	2	...	
1	6 and Pantry and Scullery	—	...	
14	3 and Pantry and Scullery	3	...	...
26	ditto.	4	...	...
20	ditto.	5	...	...
1	ditto.	6	...	...
1	4 and Pantry and Scullery	3	...	...
1	ditto.	4	...	...
2	ditto.	5	...	...
2	ditto.	6	...	...
2	5 and Pantry and Scullery	5	...	...
3251			...	

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS.

In twenty-four cases structural improvements were carried out voluntarily; at three cottages additional bedrooms have been provided; two old cottages pulled down after an Informal Notice had been served; in one case a larger house was built.

Private enterprise has been, and is busy building bungalows, detached and semi-detached villas, and workmen's cottages in the Haslington, Willaston and Wistaston townships.

Plans have been deposited for the erection of more houses of a varied type, but the rent is such that only the highly paid workers can occupy them. What really is required is the erection of a considerable number of cottages which can

be let at a rent that will meet the urgent needs of the workers in receipt of a smaller wage. Unskilled workers and Agricultural labourers cannot rent a cottage at 8/- per week. Private enterprise is evidently unwilling to build such cottages.

There are a large number of cottages in your District which are overcrowded, and which could be easily and cheaply enlarged so as to provide more sleeping accommodation for families of both sexes. This could be done if cottage owners could be induced to build a sleeping room over existing sculleries, and where no scullery exists to build one with a bedroom over it. A reasonable increase in the weekly rent would meet the outlay. Several tenants have expressed their willingness to pay an increased rent if such provision were made. I have approached several cottage owners on the matter with a view to larger sleeping accommodation, and in some cases my suggestion was favourably received.

In several cottages in Claughton Avenue, Gresty, the ground floors have had to be relaid with tiles on concrete. The patent floors have proved a failure.

CANAL BOATS.

A copy of my report to the Ministry of Health is attached to this report.

(Signed) JOHN STOREY, F.S.I.A.

6th February, 1926.

NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

INSPECTIONS UNDER THE CANAL BOATS ACTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1925.

Thirty-eight boats were inspected. The boat "Nancy" required painting and repairing. The owner said that the boat was on her way to the dock for that purpose.

The occupants of the boats were as follows:—

Men	...	...	...	...	35
Women	...	...	...	...	23
Boys	...	...	...	...	17
Girls	...	...	...	...	25

The Captain and his family on nineteen of the boats were living on them.

The boats were all free from infectious diseases.

(Signed) JOHN STOREY,
Inspector.

6th January, 1926.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

General Order of Local Government Board (Medical Officer of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances), December 13th, 1910.

Tabular Statement of Sanitary Inspector for the Year ending
December 31st, 1925, in the Nantwich Rural District.

Number and Nature of Inspections made.	Numb'r	Number of Notices served		Result of Service of Notices	
		Statutory	Informal	Notices complied with	Re-maining in hand
1 Dwelling Houses (general inspections) ...	910	1	22	22	...
2 Overcrowding	3	...	3	...	3
3 Back-to-Back Houses	8	...	...	...	...
4 Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	16	...	...	...	...
5 Courts, Yards, Passages	910	1	...	...	...
6 Privy-middens, Earth or Pail Closets, Ashpits	33	...	33	33	...
7 Cesspools	16	...	...	...	...
8 House Drainage	35	...	35	35	...
9 Ditches, Watercourses, etc.	10	...	3	3	...
10 Offensive Accumulations	3	...	3	3	...
11 Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91) (3)	...	...	..	...	...
12 Offensive Trades	35	...	...	...	...
13 (a) Slaughter-houses (Private)	236	...	...	...	...
(b) Other Places where Food is Produced or	12	...	...	...	...
14 Piggeries... .. [sold	16	...	...	...	...
15 (a) Dairies	76	...	...	...	...
(b) Cowsheds	1282	...	2	2	...
(c) Milkshops	24	...	...	...	...
16 (a) Factories	28	...	...	...	...
(b) Workshops	148	...	...	...	...
(c) Workplaces... ..	...	...	...	...	...
(d) Outworkers' Premises ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
17 Bakehouses (Overground)	50	...	...	...	...
20 Smoke Observations	6	...	...	...	...
21 Canal Boats	38	...	...	...	...
22 Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits ...	80	...	...	...	...
23 Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	3975	2	101	98	3

(Signed) JOHN STOREY, F.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

**1—INSPECTION.**

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR OR INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	28	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries and Bakehouses)	148	...	...
TOTAL	176	...	...

2—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecu- tions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective
TOTAL

3—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, Section 107.						Number of Inspections of outworkers' premises
	Lists received from Employers—twice in the year		Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils.	Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils.	Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists	Prosecutions	
						Failing to send Lists	
	Lists.	Out- workers.					
	None	None					
Wearing Apparel— Making, etc.						None	

4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register (sec. 132) at the end of the year.	Number
Workshops	54
Bakehouses	40
Total number of Workshops on Register	94

5—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.		Number
Notified to H.M. Inspector
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector
		...

